



State Senator • 19th District

Mark **SCHAUER**

News From Your State Capitol

How To Reach

Mark Schauer

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Dear Friend:

As your new State Senator representing the 19th District, which includes Calhoun County, the city of Jackson, and most of Jackson County, I look forward to representing all our communities with energy and integrity.

I believe in the power of public service as an opportunity to make a positive difference on the issues that affect us all. During these tough economic times, our values and decisions become even more important—to our children, our families, and to our future.

In my new leadership position as Democratic Floor Leader, I will continue to be a consistent advocate for quality and safe schools, early childhood development, and access to health care.

As the Democratic Vice Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee and member of the new Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness, I look forward to working with the Granholm administration and my colleagues to bring more jobs and recruit more businesses to our state. By discovering new ways to unlock our competitive edge, Michigan will be poised to take full advantage of both existing and potential business development opportunities. Our local workforce and industries must have every opportunity to succeed in this global economy.

As we journey forward together in an effort to build a brighter future for our families and the great state of Michigan, please feel free to call, email, or drop me a note to let me know how I can help serve you better.

Warmest regards,

Senator Mark Schauer
Democratic Floor Leader

Meet My Staff

My staff are also available to assist you with any questions or issues you may have. Please feel free to contact them:

Ken Brock - Chief of Staff

Gary Garbarino - Deputy Chief of Staff

Keith Johnson - Floor Aide

Lisa Metcalf - Legis. Aide & Scheduler

David Randels - Legislative Aide

Schauer Works to Expand MIChild Health Insurance

Senator's First Bill Addresses Promise to Help Families

The first of many bills introduced this year by Sen. Schauer will provide health insurance to low-income parents through the state's MIChild program.

He said, "I promised voters last fall that I would focus on the issues that directly affect their lives. Paying for health care is a major concern for all of us. My bill would expand a successful program that leverages federal funds to provide low cost, high quality health insurance."

The MIChild program provides health insurance for children from families earning

less than 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. MIChild already covers more than 32,000 children at a cost of \$5 per family per month.

Schauer also said, "Preventive care saves money and lives. People who don't have insurance end up being treated in emergency rooms, which increases health care costs for all of us. Studies also show that covering kids isn't enough; healthy kids need

healthy parents to flourish. Expanding MIChild isn't just the right thing to do in the long run, it saves taxpayers money."



Sen. Schauer and Governor Granholm Discuss Budget Issues with Local Leaders



Senator Mark Schauer hosted dozens of Jackson-area community leaders at Governor Jennifer Granholm's first town hall meeting on the state's current budget challenges. During the event, held at Jackson High School, the governor warned attendees that the state faces a nearly \$2 billion budget deficit next year.

The governor said that the budget crunch will challenge public and private agencies to preserve the priorities of the people and streamline everything but the most essential services and

programs. Sen. Schauer said that elected officials are working with the administration to find ways to save money and work with constituents.

"In an effort to continue the dialogue started by the governor's meeting, I encourage citizens to pass along their ideas on how we can keep a responsive and compassionate government in the face of deep revenue gaps," Schauer said. "Now is the time we must all work together."

Schauer Calls for Public Scrutiny of Auto Insurance Fee

Bills Would Require Insurance Industry to Disclose How Mandatory Fee is Set

Senator Schauer introduced legislation calling for the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) to be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Open Meetings Act.

He said, "Auto insurance policy owners have the right to know how the insurance industry determines this mandatory fee. Since the MCCA was created by state law, it should be subject to

public scrutiny. Every auto insurance policyholder in the state pays the MCCA assessment. The amount is set each year by insurance industry representatives in a closed meeting."

The MCCA assesses the fee to cover auto accident medical expenses over \$300,000. Since its inception in 1978, the fee has ranged from \$3 to \$118 per vehicle. Currently the fee is

set at \$100, an increase of \$31.

"The MCCA provides auto accident victims with the best medical coverage in the nation," he said. "Opening up its deliberations to the state's sunshine laws can only improve its operations. The wildly fluctuating MCCA fees are a real source of frustration for consumers, especially since they are not allowed to see how the fees are set."

Schauer Secures \$180,000 in Job Training Assistance

Senator Schauer recently helped secure a \$180,592 Michigan Works! grant to help fund dislocated worker retraining and on-the-job training in Calhoun, Barry, and Branch counties.

He said, "I'm proud to play a roll in helping our hard-working men and women get back into the workforce. For the hundreds of workers left jobless by Harvard Industries in Albion, the past few months have been made

even more difficult by a depressed economy. My hope is that through these additional job training opportunities, these workers and many more across our area will be able to take advantage of job prospects as soon as they become available."

The Barry, Branch, and Calhoun Work Force Development Board will administer the grant in a variety of ways including offering reemployment workshops

covering interview skills, resume development, and budgeting on a fixed income. The board ensures the development of an effective, efficient, and integrated customer-driven system that delivers comprehensive services to Michigan businesses and job training customers. For more information on the local reemployment programs, call the Barry/Branch/Calhoun Work Force Development Team at (269) 789-2446.

Schauer Hosts Regional NAACP Policy Summit

On March 13, 2003, Senator Schauer held his first annual 19th District NAACP Policy Summit. Participants included the executive board members of the Jackson, Albion, and Battle Creek NAACP branches. Among the

state officials participating were Lt. Gov. John Cherry; Alan Cropsey, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and Senators Scott, Clark-Coleman, and Bernero.

Senator Schauer is joined by Battle Creek City Commissioner Tony Walker at the Policy Meeting.





State Senator
Mark Schauer

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Coffee Hour with Mark Schauer!

In order to hear firsthand about the issues that matter to you, I'll be holding coffee hours from 8 - 9 am throughout the district. Please join me for a cup of joe, and let's chat about what's on your mind.

7-10-03	Battle Creek	Brownstone Café • 18 W. Michigan Ave.
7-17-03	Jackson	Jackson Coney Island • 615 E. Michigan Ave.
7-30-03	Marshall	Dug Out Restaurant • 107 W. Michigan Ave.
8-6-03	Blackman Twp.	Blackman Twp. Hall • 1990 W. Parnall <i>Use lower level back entrance.</i>
8-7-03	Albion	Eatin Station • 1410 N. Eaton St.



Publications Available

*As a service to you, I'm pleased to offer the following publications from my office. Please check the appropriate box(es) below, fill in your name and address in the space provided, and return this entire coupon to: **State Senator Mark Schauer, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536** or you may fax your order to **(517) 373-2964**.*

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